



The President's Daily Brief

6 October 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The cease-fire is continuing to hold in Jordan.
(Page 1)

Anwar Sadat's nomination to the Egyptian presidency
is discussed on Page 3.

In Chile, the Christian Democrats' decision to back
Allende in the runoff election virtually assures
his victory. (Page 4)

[redacted] Bolivia [redacted] 50X1
(Page 5)

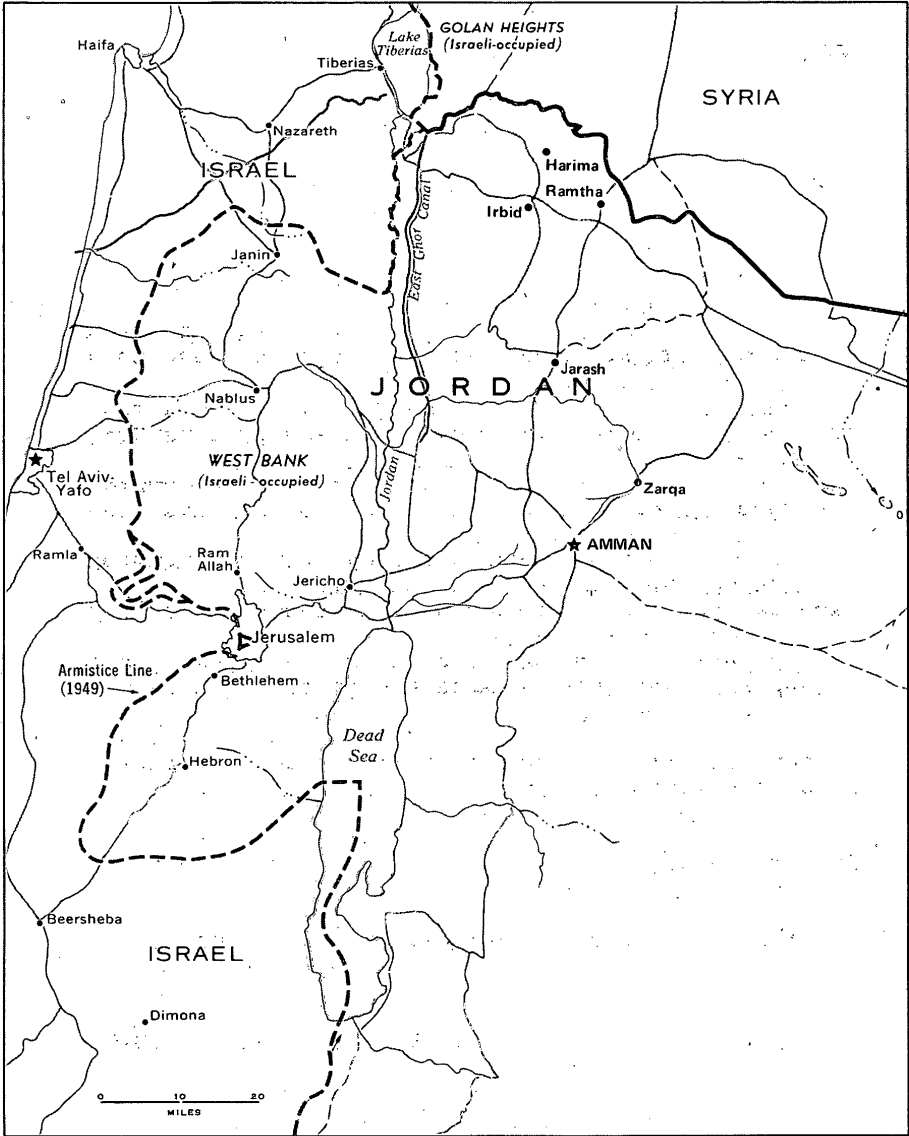
[redacted] Soviet [redacted] Laos [redacted] 50X1
(Page 6)

Harassing attacks continued against the Cambodian
column on Route 6. (Page 7)

[redacted] Soviet [redacted] 50X1
(Page 7)

President Pompidou departs today for his one-week
visit to the USSR. (Page 7)

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JORDAN

The situation in Amman continues to improve. On Sunday, the US ambassador was able to drive freely around the capital without an escort.

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The fedayeen have begun to withdraw from northern cities. There are still some 2,000 in Irbid, but they are behaving peacefully and their withdrawal is expected within the next two or three days

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The fedayeen control the area from the outskirts of Ramtha northwest to the Syrian border while the army controls the perimeters of the city and the roads to the south. Fedayeen forces remain in control of Jarash

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The fedayeen are almost entirely out of Zarqa and the army is turning control of the city over to the Public Security Forces.

A clash between army units and fedayeen forces occurred yesterday at the village of Harima, eight miles north of Irbid, but it appears to have been an isolated incident. It points up, however, the intense mutual distrust between the army and the fedayeen that could lead to other such incidents.

(continued)

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On 4 October, Yasir Arafat met for the first time with Jordanian representatives on the mediation committee.

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EGYPT

Anwar Sadat's nomination by the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only legal political organization, virtually assures him of the presidency. Egypt's legislative body, the National Assembly, has been called into session to confirm the nomination. The Assembly will present his name to a referendum tentatively scheduled for 15 October.

Sadat has appeared in the past to be a figurehead in the Egyptian Government who owed his position more to his loyalty to Nasir than to his own political strength or acumen. He brings an aura of legitimacy to his new position, however. He was a member of Nasir's original revolutionary group and Nasir named him vice president in December 1969. These claims to legitimacy may have made Sadat the easiest choice for Egypt's leaders, especially if they wanted to avoid delays in this period of uncertainty. The military, for example, had indicated that it wanted the new president to be a senior member of Nasir's original group.

Sadat has espoused strong nationalist views and has often severely castigated the UK and the US for their actions in the Middle East. He was apparently in Nasir's disfavor for several weeks for opposing Nasir's acceptance of the US peace initiative. Sadat acknowledged his earlier opposition to the US plan in his recent conversation with Secretary Richardson, but said that he would now faithfully carry out Nasir's will which was to accept the US initiative. Sadat told Richardson he hopes for a quick resumption of the talks under Jarring.

The selection of Sadat does not end the maneuvering in the Egyptian hierarchy, and other changes in the government are likely in the next few months. Western correspondents in Cairo claim that high posts will go to Minister of Interior Sharawi Jumah--whom they say will become prime minister--and to pro-Soviet former vice president Ali Sabri, but there is as yet no firm evidence regarding possible further moves.

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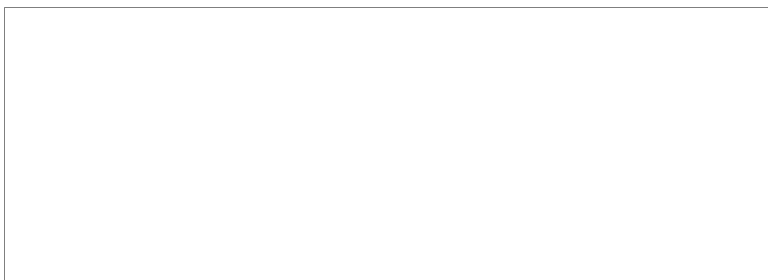
CHILE

Christian Democratic supporters of cooperation with Salvador Allende prevailed yesterday in a party congress. By a vote of 271 to 191, the congress decided to back him in the runoff Congressional election later this month, requiring only a fairly loose pledge from him to back a constitutional reform bill to be worked out with his followers. Anti-Allende forces had sought prior enactment of all Christian Democratic reform proposals and their approval by Allende as the price for party support.

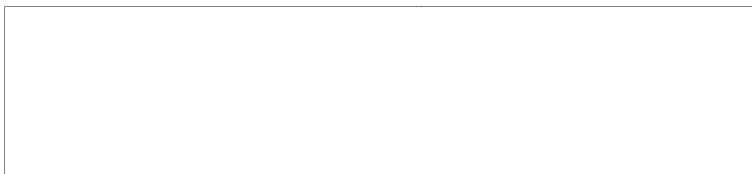
This action virtually assures that Allende will receive enough Christian Democratic support for election to the Presidency. It marks a victory for those of Allende's advisers, including the Communist Party, who persuaded him late last week to soften his earlier rejection of the Christian Democratic demands (see The President's Daily Brief, 4 October 1970). The vote also deepens the internal Christian Democratic split.

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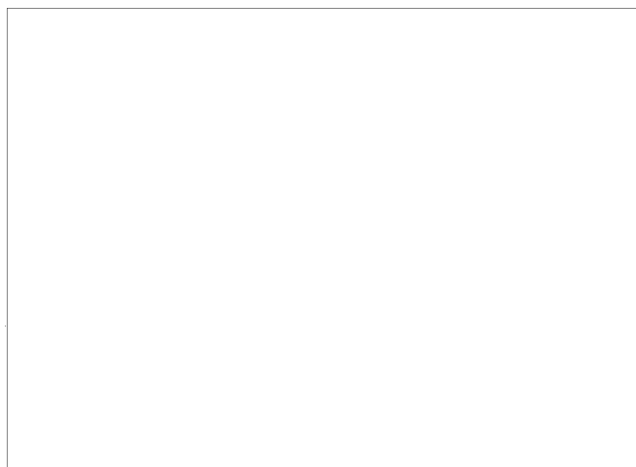
BOLIVIA



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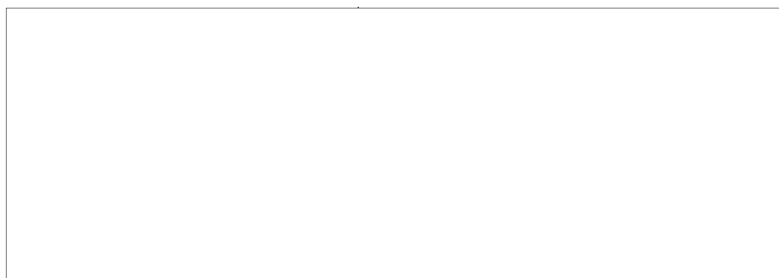


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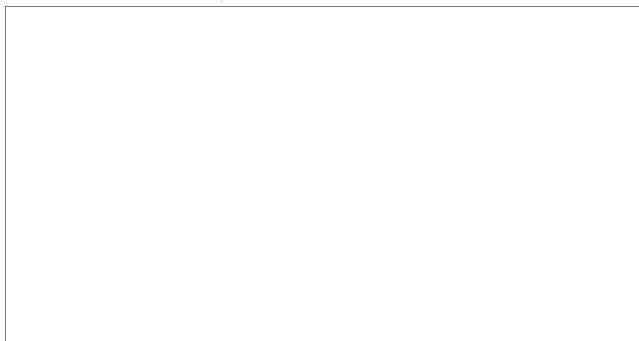
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LAOS



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NOTES

Cambodia: Harassment of the government column on Route 6 continues. According to late press reports, the Communists launched new attacks against the column early today and against the provincial capitals of Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Thom.

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France-USSR: During his visit to the Soviet Union from 6 to 13 October, President Pompidou probably will press for Soviet moves to demonstrate that De Gaulle's "special relationship" has not deteriorated markedly. Pompidou is known to fear that Bonn's Ostpolitik might relegate France to the sidelines, and to be concerned over the recent lack of Franco-Soviet consultation. Moscow, anxious that a resentful Paris not improve ties with Washington, has already sounded out the French on the chances of arranging regular high-level political consultations. A specific proposal to accomplish that may well be made to Pompidou.

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